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MEDIA RELEASE

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Greenville Fire Chief Tom McDowell Inducted into SC Firemen's Hall of Fame

Greenville City Fire Chief Tom McDowell was inducted into the S.C. State Firemen's Association (SCSFA) Hall of Fame during the organization's recent annual conference in Myrtle Beach. The Hall of Fame is awarded to those with over 20 years of service and significant achievements during their career.

Chief McDowell served as state president of SCSFA during 1997-1998. He currently serves on the organization's executive committee, and also serves as chair of the Fire School Committee.

Chief McDowell is also chair of the S.C. Fire Academy Advisory Council, where he is responsible for advising and assisting the superintendent of the S.C. Fire Academy. He also serves as a member of the Governor's Firefighter Mobilization Oversight Committee, as chair of the Piedmont Region Counter-Terrorism Council, and as a member of the S.C. Counterterrorism Council, which is chaired by SLED director Robert Stewart. Chief McDowell is a past chair of the Joint Council of S.C. Fire Service Organizations.

Chief McDowell began his career with the Greenville Fire Department in January 1973. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1983, and to Captain in 1985. He was promoted to Assistant Chief in 1996, and was appointed Chief after the retirement of former Chief

Robert Capps in 1999.

The Greenville Fire Chief says that he is very appreciative of the recent and past honors he has received, but that he is far more appreciative that his career has afforded him an opportunity to serve his community and state. “Over the years, I felt I had things to contribute to make the fire service in my community and S.C. better—and so I was willing to get involved and make what contribution I could to accomplish that. Accolades and awards are wonderful, but the truth is, if you do not feel satisfaction in your career simply on the basis of the service you have provided, the awards are never enough to provide that satisfaction.”

Chief McDowell is also quick to give credit to the firefighters and fire prevention personnel of his entire department. “I could not have been more blessed than to have been able to serve with the members of the City of Greenville Fire team, and I mean those men and women in every part of the organization at every level. They are truly dedicated people, committed to providing the very best service to the citizens of Greenville.”

Greenville City Council Member and Chair of the Public Safety Committee Deb Sofield congratulated Chief McDowell as she announced his induction into the SCSFA Hall of Fame at a recent City Council meeting. “I am among those who are very proud of Chief McDowell,” she said. “His service to the community and state is commendable. I’m glad others throughout S.C. appreciate Chief McDowell’s work as much as we here in Greenville do.”

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Photo attached.